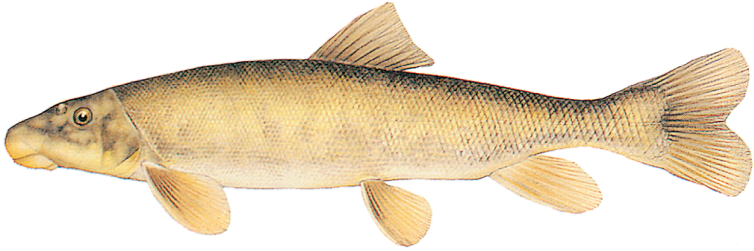


Mountain sucker

Catostomus platyrhynchus



Similar Species: White sucker and longnose sucker

Identification: Lips are bumpy, lower and upper lip separated by a notch. Breeding male has bright red stripe along side, distinguishing it from other suckers.

As its name implies, the mountain sucker is found in mountainous regions of western North America, from California and Colorado to British Columbia and Saskatchewan. In South Dakota, it is only found in the clear, cold streams and a few lakes of the Black Hills. The species is most at home in small streams with aquatic vegetation and undercut banks. The primary food of this fish is algae that it scrapes from rocks. Mountain suckers spawn in late spring to early summer in streams. These are small fish, usually not over 1 pound.

